

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An exhaust gas cleaning catalyst comprises a tetragonal-system composite oxide which is produced through a neutralization coprecipitation-drying-firing method and which is represented by  $A_2BO_4$  (wherein A represents at least one member selected from the group consisting of Ca, Sr, and Ba; and B represents at least one member selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Ti, Sn, and V), and a noble metal component which is present in the tetragonal-system composite oxide as a solid solution or which is carried by the composite oxide and is dispersed in the composite oxide.

12-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) [[An]] The exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the tetragonal-system composite oxide is  $Ca_2MnO_4$ .

16-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) [[An]] The exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the noble metal component is rhodium, palladium, or platinum.

20-28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The exhaust gas cleaning catalyst as described in claim 11, wherein the tetragonal-system composite oxide which is produced through a neutralization ~~coprecipitation-drying-firing~~ coprecipitation-drying-firing method and which is represented by  $A_2BO_4$  is obtained by treating, with an aqueous ammonium carbonate solution, an aqueous solution containing (a) at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrates of Ca, Sr, or Ba and (b) at least one member selected from the group consisting of nitrates of Mn, Fe, Ti, Sn, or V, to thereby ~~co-precipitate~~ co-percipitate a co-precipitation product including a precursor; subjecting the co-precipitation product to filtration; drying the filtered product; and firing the dried product at 800 to 1,450°C.

30-34. (canceled)